



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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November 05, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COMPETITIVE EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD
AND ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT
2014 COMPETITIVE EXCESS FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM
(SECOND DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$945,000 in Competitive Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to various recipients for improvements to At-Risk-Youth facilities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed projects for the grantees listed below categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Allocate an aggregative amount not to exceed \$945,000 in Competitive Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District, for grants to fund the following projects:
 - a. \$400,000 to the City of Lawndale for the proposed Teen Recreation Center Project;
 - b. \$375,000 to the City of Carson for the proposed At-Risk-Youth Facility Refurbishment Project;
 - c. \$100,000 to the Motor Avenue Improvement Association for the proposed Motor Avenue Farmers Market and Urban Garden Program; and
 - d. \$70,000 to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the proposed Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington Continuation High School Student Garden Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants to the grantees listed herein when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$945,000 in Competitive Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), as follows:

- \$400,000 to the City of Lawndale for the proposed Teen Recreation Center Project, consisting of improvements to an existing recreation building to create a teen recreation center;
- \$375,000 to the City of Carson for the proposed At-Risk-Youth Facility Refurbishment Project, consisting of rehabilitation of McDonald Community Center, Dolphin Park, Mills Park, and Stevenson Park to upgrade parks and community centers for various park operations for At-Risk Youth;
- \$100,000 to the Motor Avenue Improvement Association for the proposed Motor Avenue Farmers Market and Urban Garden Program, consisting of development of several educational open space gardens at local schools in the Palms neighborhood; and
- \$70,000 to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the proposed Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington Continuation High School Student Garden Project, consisting of development of student gardens at Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington Continuation High School campus.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grants to the various grantees when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable. It is also recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the Second Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$945,000, is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District's portion of Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving

grants of Excess Funds. Each of the identified grantees meets this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Fund grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for competitively-awarded projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Lawndale is the lead agency for the proposed Teen Recreation Center Project. The City of Carson is the lead agency for the proposed At-Risk-Youth Facility Refurbishment Project. RPOSD is the lead agency for the proposed Motor Avenue Farmers Market and Urban Garden Program and the proposed Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington Continuation High School Student Garden Project.

The City of Lawndale's proposed Teen Recreation Center Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15301(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project consists of restoration and rehabilitation of an existing building involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

The City of Carson's proposed At-Risk-Youth Facility Refurbishment Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15301(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project consists of restoration and rehabilitation of existing buildings involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

The proposed Motor Avenue Farmers Market and Urban Garden Program Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of installation of several educational open space gardens at local schools in the Palms neighborhood, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3(b) and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed project involves construction of small new structures and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The proposed Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington Continuation High School Student Garden Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of the development of student gardens at Washington Preparatory High School and Duke Ellington

Continuation High School campus is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3(b) and 4(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed project involves construction of small new structures and minor alterations in the condition of land.

The proposed projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed projects' records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreements have been approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed projects will promote healthy activities in the Second Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors